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'Robots, Privacy and Society' Topics of May 23 Lecture at Cal Poly

SAN LUIS OBISPO -- The Ethics + Emerging Sciences Group at Cal Poly will host a talk on robots, drones and society from 10 a.m. to noon Wednesday, May 23, in Chumash Auditorium in the University Union on campus.

Ryan Calo, director of privacy and robotics research at Stanford Law School's [Center for Internet and Society](#), will present "Robots, Privacy and Society," as part of the Technology, Policy & Ethics Lecture Series.

Robots -- sometimes called drones -- have been making headlines for years on the battlefield, but now they're starting to make an impact on society at large. Their surveillance roles in law enforcement and by paparazzi and activists are raising concerns about whether existing laws are enough to safeguard civil liberties.

"It is not hard to imagine why robots raise privacy concerns," Calo said. "Robots are equipped with the ability to sense, process and record the world around them. They can go places humans cannot go, see things humans cannot see."

Calo will also explore the various ways robots implicate privacy and why, absent conscientious legal and design interventions, people might never realize the potential of this transformative technology. As society and business embrace robotics, solving the legal and ethical issues associated with their use will be important for industry growth.

Calo's work has appeared in The New York Times, the Associated Press, and The Wall Street Journal. He serves on several advisory and program committees, including the Electronic Privacy Information Center, the Future of Privacy Forum, the Mozilla Legal Advisory Board, and National Robotics Week. He also co-chairs the American Bar Association Committee on Robotics and Artificial Intelligence. Prior to joining Stanford's law school in 2008, Calo was an associate at Covington & Burling LLP, where he advised companies on issues of data security, privacy and telecommunications.

The lecture will be followed by a discussion period. The event is open to the public. This talk is sponsored by Cal Poly's College of Liberal Arts' Lottery Speakers Fund, the Philosophy Department, and the Orfalea College of Business.

About The Ethics + Emerging Sciences Group at Cal Poly

It is a nonpartisan research and educational organization focused on the risk, ethical and social impacts of emerging technologies. Current projects and interests are related to issues in robotics, human enhancement, nanotechnology, space development, geo-engineering and other areas. More information is available online at <http://ethics.calpoly.edu> or

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